



THE GYROLOG

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921**

President-*Peter Carter*, **Past President-***Jack Little*,
1st Vice-President-*Ray Dallaire*, **2nd Vice-President-***Bruce Swanson*
Secretary-*Barry Walker*, **Treasurer-***Gary Campbell*,
Directors-*Alan Rusler, Arv Hardin, David Winfield*
Database Administrator-*John Ross*, **Gyrolog Editor-***Fred Schulte*

AUGUST 2016

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Bruce Foy** on the 1st, **Val Pohl** and **Walter Yakimets** on the 4th, **Eric Spink** on the 6th, **Bob Bahniuk** and **Peter Morrison** on the 13th and **Taras Chmil** on the 16th. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Len and Jackie Evenson**, 49 years on the 5th; **Eric Spink** and **Christina Gauk**, 15 years on the 18th; **Allan and Jean Warrack**, 54 years on the 18th; **Leon and Jo-Anne Lubin**, **50 years** on the 23rd; **Dan and Sandy Hasinoff**, 48 years on the 24th and **Peter Carter** and **Eileen Kuhl**, 12 years on the 29th.

Friendship

A friend is someone you
can be alone with and have nothing
to do and not be able to think of anything to say
and be comfortable
in the silence.
- Sheryl Condie



President Peter Carter welcomed 41 Gyros to the **August 2nd** luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club.

Or guest speaker was **Bruce Swanson** a four-year member of the Edmonton Club who delighted us with pictures and stories of his trip to **Africa**.

How many of you gentlemen have been to Africa? How many are planning a trip or thinking about going there? Well, I have to tell you honestly that I was afraid to go to Africa. All we ever heard was the bad stuff: Ebola, Pirates, Terrorism, Violence, Backlash from Apartheid. Nasty diseases like malaria and yellow fever. And snakes! And if that's not enough, just getting there is a daunting hurdle. Frankly, for years, Africa was probably near the bottom of my travel list.

At the same time there was something that drew us to this mysterious continent. We kept running into people, like some of the people in this room, who had made the trip. There was one constant message: "You have to Go". And we did. I can tell you, and Bronwyn will back me, that this was the best trip of our lives. What did we find in place of those fears?

We found a gorgeous coastline along the Cape of Good Hope. We found dazzling sunsets on the **Chobe River in Botswana**.



Chobe River photo by Ian Sewell

We were blown away by the awesome power of the Victoria Falls. They call it “the smoke that thunders”. And we experienced the haunting vastness of the endless plains of the Serengeti. A truly spiritual experience.

We found lovely people who were polite and friendly and very, very helpful and not just the ones in the tourist industry. We met people from Capetown to the Serengeti. One group of people who you will recognize are the **Maasai of the Serengeti**. They wear red robes and carry spears.

One of the Maasai told about an American politician who came to their village on a goodwill mission. He was addressing the men of the village.

“The great white father in Washington calls you his Brother!”, the politician said. The men all broke into beaming smiles, raised their spears and chanted “**Hazzunga!**”



He continued: “We will forge a friendship that will last for a thousand years!” Once again, the members of the village lifted their spears and shouted “Hazzunga!”

He carried on and on. Each time he spoke, the natives would all shake their spears, and with a smile, yell “Hazzunga!”

Finally, his speech was finished, and the chief turned to him: “We are the Maasai. To us, cattle is everything –our wealth, our pride, our power. Come with me and I will show you the finest herd of cattle in Africa. But watch where you walk and don’t step in the “Hazzunga.”

But even more than this rich beauty and these wonderful people, there is something about Africa that dominates your senses and your memories, and that is the encounter with the animals:

Meeting the animals is a very personal experience. You can’t believe what it is like to see elephants caring for their babies. Did you know that both elephants and hippos kick their young boys out of the herd when they are teenagers? These poor guys have to wander around and find themselves. I could totally relate to that. I heard this echo: “go find a job and quit bumming off of us”.

The experience was unbelievably intimate. We were so up-close and personal with these animals. Sometimes as close as I am to you right now. We had a 12-foot crocodile come within 4 feet of our little boat. We walked within 40 yards of a Cape Buffalo, hidden in the grass. That's like tripping over a grizzly bear. And we had a lion sleeping 3 feet away from the tires of our truck.

And what stories we heard!

We heard that the baboons will sometimes climb into the vehicle with you looking for booty. A lady told us of going back to the vehicle and finding a baboon in the back seat waving a passport. Apparently, some serious negotiations ensued!

And Snakes! There is a snake in Africa called the **Black Mamba**. We saw one swimming across the river in Botswana. They are so deadly. One of the guides told us they were chasing a gazelle through the bush in a Land Cruiser when they disturbed a mamba. The snake chased their vehicle through the bush, caught up with it, stood on its tail, and repeatedly struck the back of the truck at chest height.

A lady in Zimbabwe told me about two different incidents where farmers were driving along in their vehicles with their arm out the window. They ran over a mamba. The snake chased them and struck them on the arm. They had to be airlifted to the Johannesburg anti-venom unit or they would have died.

The same lady said that she was cleaning their farmhouse. Out of the corner of her eye she saw a movement. In the fireplace, standing on its tail was a spitting cobra!

And, we met Gladness, a lady from Arusha in Tanzania. She told us about her terror of snakes.

"I start a career as a nanny in Germany. One day I am pushing a baby carriage through the woods. I hear rustle, rustle in the grass. I scream. I run for my life. I forget the baby carriage. It was a short career".



One day, the guide was telling us about hippos. Did you know that **hippos are the deadliest mammal in Africa?** The guide said that he was walking in the grass one night with a friend, and they were both carrying flashlights. A hippo charged them and they started running. But he tripped over his friend and the flashlight went flying. The hippo attacked the flashlight instead of them. But they were lucky. In Africa, Hippos killed over 2600 people in one year. They were mostly men. Can you guess why? Well, the hippos spend their days in the water and then wander to the grassy areas to feed at night, and they create these paths. Meanwhile, the men of the village go out to drink with their pals at night. When they stumble home, they can go through the grass. But that's where the snakes are. Did you HEAR what I said about the snakes? Or they can go on the paths where the angry hippos are. Life is not fair. These guys have just had a few snorts and a few laughs with their buddies. Who knows, maybe they are African Gyros. Do they have to worry about Check Stops? No. They have to decide between deadly venomous snakes and mad hippos. I know which one I would choose! That's why so many men are killed by hippos each year!



What an exhilarating experience! But after the trip, when I looked back, I realized something very scary.

There was really very little between us and danger. We were in a place where the weak, the slow, and the unlucky were picked off. The joke about surviving a safari was that you made sure that your group had someone slower than you!

The guides were amazing at gauging the safe zones, and we were instructed in safety: Stay in the vehicle, don't talk, go in a straight line, and never, never go out at night without an escort. If you followed these rules, you would be safe.

Naturally, there are people who go on safari and decide that the rules don't apply to them.

For example, we saw two guys get out of truck and almost cause a stampede of elephants.

We heard of a father daring his son to swim across a lagoon. They shot the crocodile that grabbed the boy. But they should have shot the father.

In Tarangire, Tanzania two boys walked along a pathway unescorted at night. The one boy was grabbed by a leopard and never seen again.

While we were there, a woman rolled her window down in a South African Lion park, against regulations, and was killed. And even in our small group, we had a woman who would not listen.

Some People seem to think that because they have paid for a game safari, it entitles them to make their own rules. They think they are going to the Zoo! **But It's NOT a Zoo**, and the animals will tell you, this is Their home and They have their own rules. So I decided today to let the real residents of Africa, and I mean the animals, tell you the way they see it!

A comprehensive presentation of photos taken by Bruce Swanson followed:

After the presentation

Shortly after we arrived in Capetown, our guide said to me:
“If you could only visit 2 Continents in your lifetime
You should go to Africa...Twice”
By the time the trip was over, I knew exactly what he meant.

Editor's Note: the photos shown in this Gyrolog article are not from Bruce Swanson's presentation but were gathered from various Google sources to give a sense of the beauty of the African landscape, their people and a small sampling of the animals.

Thanks to **Dick Nichols** and **Ron Ramsey** for arranging this excellent speaking event! The Free Lunch draw was won by **Roger Russell**.

The Annual Texas Scramble Nine Holes Golf Tournament was held on **August 16th** at the **Legends Golf and Country Club**. Twenty-five Gyros, Gyrettes and guests enjoyed excellent weather and course conditions. An additional 14 members enjoyed barbequed steak with all of the trimmings.

The individual hole prize winners were: Ladies longest putt #1, **Sandy McDonald**; Ladies longest drive #2, **Paulette Schulte**; Closest to the pin or green on #3, **Mike Matei**; Men's longest drive #4, **Jack Bowen**; Ball in water on #5, **Len Evenson** and Men's longest putt on #7, **John Mann**.

Thanks to all who donated prizes and many thanks to **Barry** and **Valerie Walker**, **Roger Russell** and **Sandy McDonald** for their energy and commitment for organizing this event.



Legends Golf and Country Club

President Peter Carter welcomed 68 Gyros and Gyrettes and our guest speaker to the **August 23rd** luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club.

Or guest speaker, **Dr. Knut Woltjen** returned to provide an update on the stem cell research activities at the **Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA)** at Kyoto University in Japan. Dr. Woltjen joined CiRA in 2013 and is currently Associate Professor, Department of Life Science Frontiers.

Research Overview

iPS cell technology is revolutionizing personalized medicine, allowing us to safely study patient genomes by proxy. Employing reprogramming and genome engineering technologies, the Woltjen Lab ultimately aims to raise understanding of human disease predisposition and development through functional genomics. Genome engineering plays a major role in human disease research.

For further information on stem cell research activities, see **Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA)**. www.cira.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Thanks to **Sam Gruden** and **Bruce Foy** for arranging this speaking event.

The Free Lunch Draw was won by **Val Pohl**.

“Fast Fred”

The GYROLOG August 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Corn Roast, Tuesday Afternoon/Evening, September 6th, Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40th Ave.

Time: Bocce 4:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00

Corn on the Cob, Chicken, Salad and Dessert

Cost: \$25 per person

Contacts: Roger Russell, Barry Walker, David Burnett and friends

Gyrette Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club

Tuesday, September 13th.

Time: Registration 11:30 am, Lunch 12:00 noon

Speaker: **Mark Snaterse**, Executive Director-Addiction and Mental Health

Topic: "A Suicide Prevention Strategy for the City of Edmonton" The Week of September 12-17 is National Suicide Prevention Week

Contact: Petra Hagemann

The 2016 Annual Men's Bocce Night, Italian Cultural Centre, 14230-133 Ave. Tuesday October 4th.

Bocce: 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6:30 and more Bocce

Menu: Festive Turkey Dinner with all of the trimmings

Cost: \$50.00, wine is extra, available at the cash bar

Contact: Mike Matei

Annual Curlarama, Banff Curling Centre, November 4-6th.

Host: Stampede City Gyro Club.

Organizing Team: Dale Green, Paul Stout

Cost and other details: TBA